Abstract of Disclosur

An evaluation apparatus and method capable of accurately evaluating the significance of named entities mentioned in a set of documents.

A word significance decision section 160 decides the significance of each personal name acquired by a word acquisition section 140. A locational relation calculation section 162 calculates the locational relation between respective documents mentioning each personal name with reference to the URL of each document stored in a location information storage section 150 and further calculates the weight of each document. A significance calculation section166 decides the significance of each personal name based on the weight of each document which is calculated by the locational relation calculation section 162. The high significance is given to a personal name mentioned in a lot of documents which are mutually less relevant to one another.